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Contact: Randy Cephus
817-886-1310
randy.r.cephus@usace.army.mil

The Corps continues outreach effort to provide electrical submersible pump alternatives

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District continues its efforts to provide local residents with potential alternatives to the banned electrical submersible pumps and to answer questions pertaining to submersible pump use on Corps lakes.

The Fort Worth District agreed to provide alternatives and to solicit ideas from property owners as a result of the Jan. 2010 policy that bans the use of pumps that are *noncompliant* with standards set by Underwriters Laboratories for the purpose of withdrawing water for individual domestic use.

The Corps remains committed to working with affected home owners to come up with viable alternatives. Most recently in September the Corps met with residents surrounding Whitney Lake and provided them with a list of safe, viable potential alternatives to the banned pumps.

While the Corps acknowledges the inconvenience the ban may pose to some local homeowners, public safety must and will always come first.

"Our overall goal is to reduce the potential for unnecessary accidents at our area lakes," stated Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander of the Fort Worth District. "Part of that involves informing local homeowners, lake users and the general public of the potential electrocution hazards associated with the use of submersible pumps on water bodies where swimmers and boaters are present."

This ban further enforces guidelines that have always been in place for requirements for private water line installation at any Fort Worth District Lake. Those guidelines specify that 'a pump shall be approved by Underwriters Laboratory, installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, and wired in accordance with all provisions of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code – NEPA 70 (NEC); wiring methods for wet locations shall be used; and pumps may not be rated more than 220 volts.' Permit holders signed-off on these guidelines in order to receive their original permits.

"Some residents have already voluntarily complied with the policy and we are working with others on viable alternatives," said Belton Lake Manager, Daniel Thomasson. "We encourage all noncompliant pump permit holders to work with us to reach a safe alternative."

The Corps will work with home owners as they explore alternatives but remains firm on its enforcement of the policy. Noncompliance of the current policy may result in fines and other legal action. To provide information on noncompliance of the Corps policy, please call 1-866-413-7970.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – FORT WORTH DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TX 76102
WWW.SWF.USACE.ARMY.MIL